



Quick Facts on Children

2023

The 2023 Quick Facts on Children aims to provide basic information on Filipino children. The Council for the Welfare of Children as part of its monitoring and evaluation function should be the repository of data on children through its Subabay Monitoring System (SBMS) which is the CWC's database on children.

Republic of the Philippines



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2023 Quick Facts on Children

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FOREWORD



Cognizant of our efforts to build a future where every child can flourish and develop their full potential, the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) is pleased to present the 2023 Quick Facts on Children.

In an era where effective decision making and policy programming is data-driven and evidence-based, the 2023 Quick Facts on Children offers key insights into the status of children's rights and well-being. This report not only serves as a testament to our commitment to advocacy but also as a powerful tool for policymakers, stakeholders, and advocates striving to ensure a brighter future for all the Filipino children.

Through the commitment of all our government partners and stakeholders, the CWC was able to gather and consolidate valuable information to shed light on the critical facets of children's well-being. The report covers data anchored on the four (4) core rights of the child, namely: Survival, Development, Protection, and Participation.

The CWC, together with the duty-bearers, believe in the inalienable right of children to live a life free from exploitation and violence, and to have opportunities to develop their full potential. As duty bearers, the CWC, along with other stakeholders, need to safeguard these rights and provide basic services for children to survive and thrive. But our duty does not stop there. Filipino children need to be protected from all forms of harm, especially domestic violence. With the guidance of their parents, together with institutions of society, including the school, government and civil society organizations, children should also be able to access information and early childhood development services. They must be given the opportunity to thrive and further develop and specialize their social, physical and mental abilities that can help them achieve their aspirations and dreams, and mold them to become better members of society.

Among the salient features of the report is its focus on child work and child labor, providing statistics on the situation of working children in the country. The CWC sees child work, specifically child labor, as a cross-cutting issue that needs tangible solutions that will empower our children to be free from all forms of exploitation. This report includes policy recommendations that our government partners and stakeholders may consider in order to strengthen our strategies to safeguard and promote children's rights. We hope that the 2023 Quick Facts on Children will serve as a guide to all duty-bearers in their dedication and commitment to upholding children's rights.

Together, we remain steadfast in our pursuit of a safer, brighter, and inclusive future for all Filipino children.

Basta Bata Kami Po Ang Bahala!



Usec. Angelo M. Tapales
Executive Director V

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Council for the Welfare of Children extends its gratitude to the following National Government Agencies for their invaluable contribution to the publication of the 2023 Quick Facts on Children:

- Department of Interior and Local Government- National Barangay Operations Office
- Department of Health- Epidemiology Bureau, Public Health Services Team
- Department of Social Welfare and Development- Policy Development and Planning Bureau
- Department of Social Welfare and Development- Standards Bureau
- Department of Social Welfare and Development- Social Welfare Institutional Development Bureau
- National Nutrition Council- Nutrition Surveillance Division
- Philippine Statistics Authority

The CWC, through the Monitoring and Evaluation Division (MED), would also like to extend its gratitude and appreciation to its two (2) interns Ms. Mary Joshua Santos and Ms. Bianca Lorraine Tan for the 2023 Quick Facts on Children infographics and layout.

ABOUT CWC

The Council for the Welfare of Children is the focal inter-agency body of the Philippine Government for children. It is mandated to coordinate the implementation and enforcement of all laws; formulate, monitor and evaluate policies, programs and measures for children.

CWC VISION

The focal government inter-agency body providing dynamic leadership in ensuring a child-friendly and child-sensitive society where every child fully enjoys his/her rights.

CWC MISSION

CWC shall undertake its coordinative role for children through:

- Formulation and advocacy for the implementation of policies, programs and measures
- Monitoring and evaluation of policies, programs and measures
- Advocacy for child rights and mobilization of resources
- Building strong networks, partnerships and coordination mechanisms
- Institution building of partners and stakeholders

MANDATE

CWC shall undertake its coordinative role for children through:

- Formulation and advocacy for the implementation of policies, programs and measures
- Monitoring and evaluation of policies, programs and measures
- Advocacy for child rights and mobilization of resources
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- Institution building of partners and stakeholders

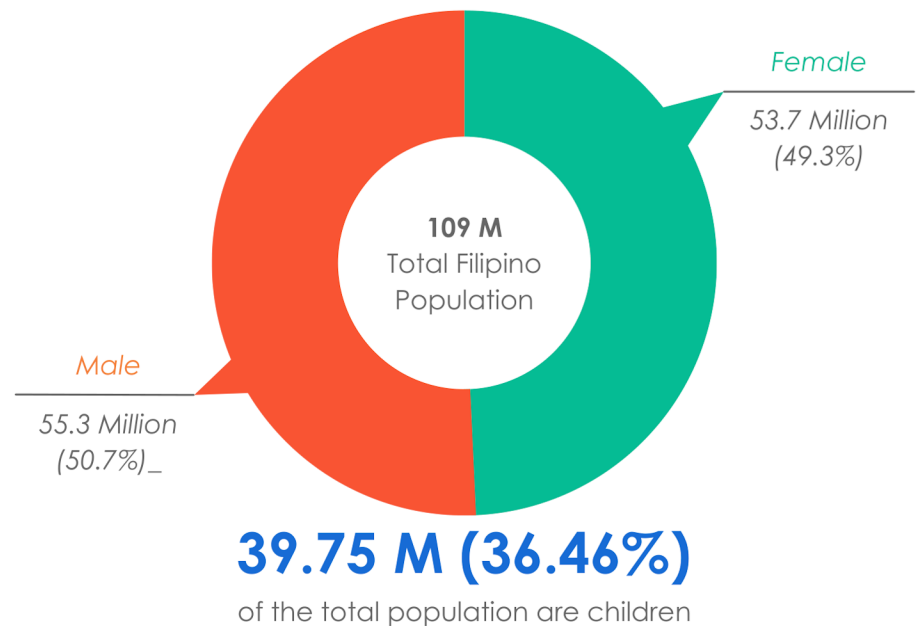


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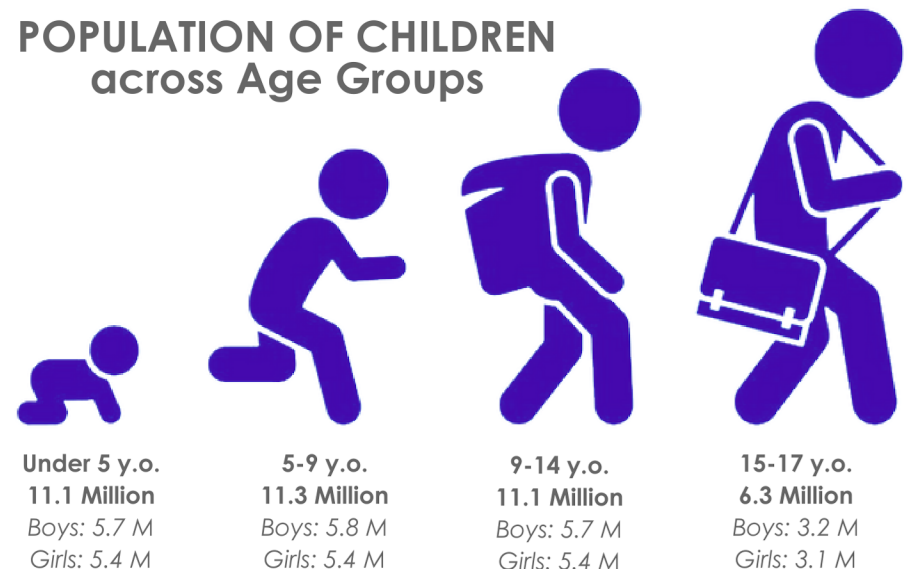
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General Information

PHILIPPINE POPULATION



POPULATION OF CHILDREN across Age Groups



General Information

CIVIL REGISTRATION



783,199

Number of children registered
at birth (As of August 2022)



28

Number of registered live
births in other countries

Regions with the Most Registered Live Births

Region	Number of Registered Births
CALABARZON	118,919 (5.7%)
Region III	93,808 (12.0%)
NCR	88,033 (11.2%)

Provinces with the Most Registered Live Births

Region	Number of Registered Births
Cavite	31,516 (26.5%)
Bulacan	26,498 (28.2%)
Quezon City	16,785 (19.1%)

Regions with Low Registered Live Births

Region	Number of Live Registered Births
CAR	14,060
BARMM	16,542

* Factors affecting low registries: [Service Accessibility](#) and [Receptiveness](#)

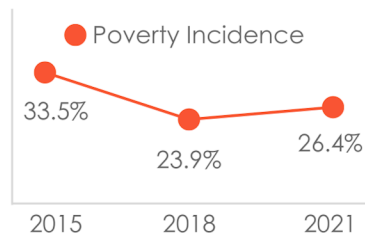
Registered Births per Region (January to August 2022)



* The data set from PSA is dated 31 October 2022.
However, only January-August 2022 has complete data.

General Information

CHILD POVERTY

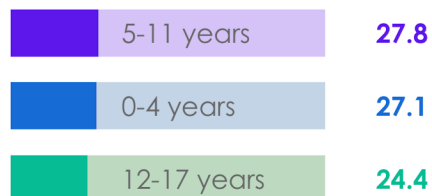


The recorded poverty incidence rate among children is **26.4%** in 2021 with an increase of **2.5%** between 2018 and 2021

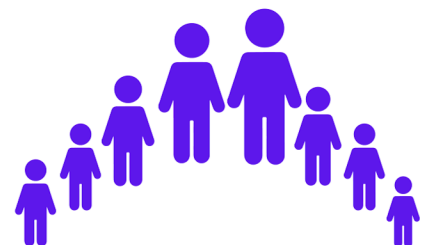
10.46 M children were classified poor, making them the sector with the **2nd highest** poverty incidence.

* Poverty Incidence is the proportion of families or individuals with per capita income less than the per capita Poverty threshold to the total number of families or individuals.

Poverty Incidence of Children by Age



Families with **7+ Members** have the highest poverty incidence with a rate of **31.9%** which may have been further affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Regions by Cluster with Highest Poverty Incidence Among Families

Region	Poverty Incidence among Families (%)
Region V (Luzon)	21.9%
Region VIII (Visayas)	22.2%
BARMM (inc Cotabato City) (Mindanao)	35.5%

Survival

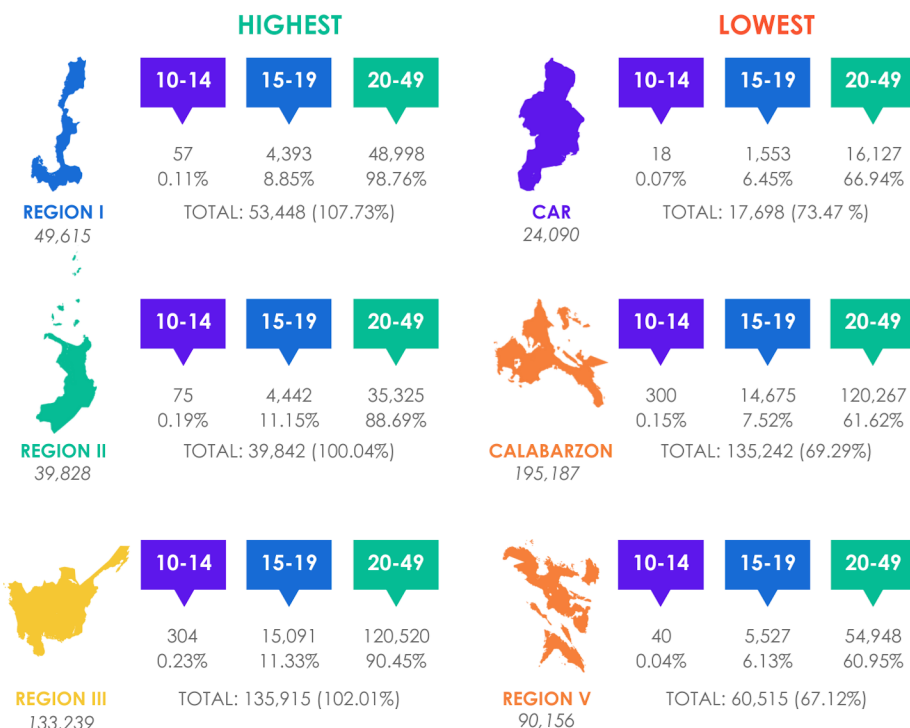
MATERNAL CARE AND SERVICES



Prenatal care for pregnant mothers **reduces the risk of pregnancy complications** and **ensures the health and safety** of both the mother and the child.

* Pregnant women should be provided four or more pre-natal check-ups.

Regions with the Highest and Lowest Number and Proportion of Pregnant Women with at least Four Prenatal Checkups



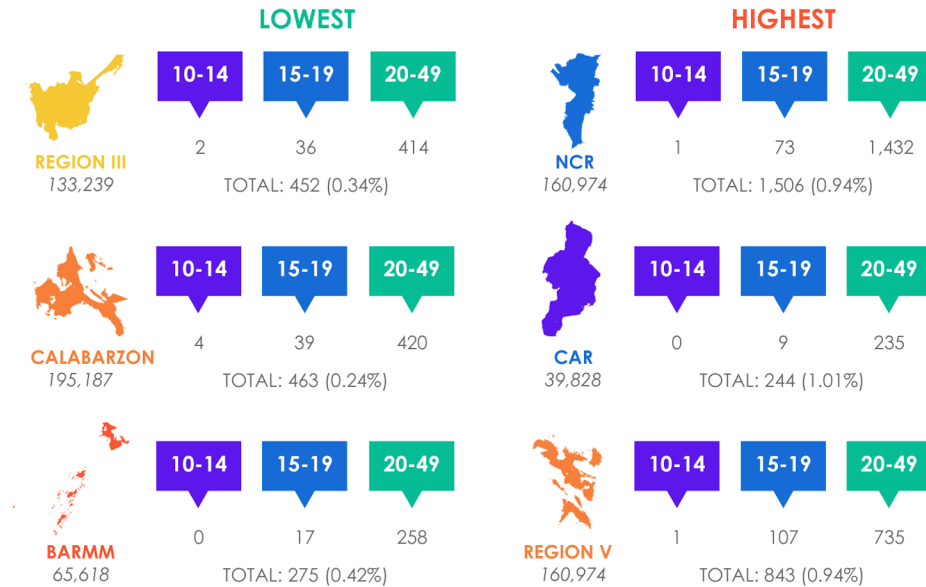
Barriers in Accessing Prenatal Care:

- Socio-economic Factors
- Geographic factors and accessibility
- Lack of education or awareness

Survival

MATERNAL CARE AND SERVICES

Highest and Lowest Number and Proportion of Pregnancy Outcome (Fetal Deaths) by Region and Age



Factors Related to Risk of Fetal Death



Lack of prenatal care



Lack of medical facilities and skilled medical professional



Geographic and demographic factors



Adolescent pregnancy

Survival

MATERNAL CARE AND SERVICES



122,260
(24.14%)

Number of live births among 15-19 year old women

Regions With Highest Adolescent (15-19 y.o.) Birth Rates

Region	Adolescent Birth Number and Rate
Region X	10,145 (41.66%)
Region XI	9,538 (38.56%)
Region XII	9,259 (41.15%)

BARMM: Region With Lowest Number of Medical Facility and Lowest Number of Deliveries Attended by a Healthcare Professional



Only **68.34%** or roughly **44.8k out of 65.6k** deliveries in BARMM were done in a medical facility

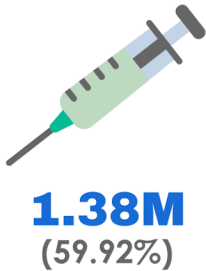
At-home deliveries are mainly due to the high costs of giving birth in medical facilities and accessibility

In contrast, only **74.64%** or roughly **49.0k out of 65.6k** deliveries in BARMM were attended by a skilled healthcare professional

Shortage in medical professionals may also be a contributing factor for the high incidence of at-home deliveries in BARMM

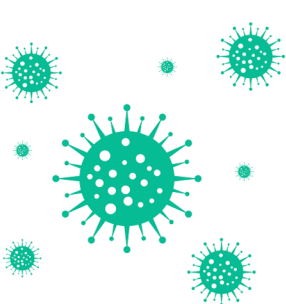
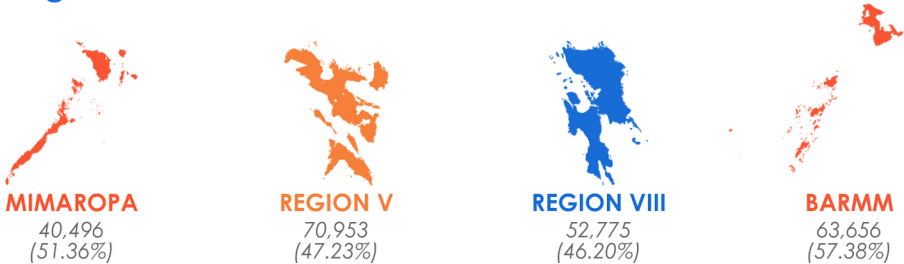
Survival

CHILD CARE AND SERVICES



are Fully-Immunized Children for 2022

Regions with Low Immunization Rate



Low immunization rates in the country may be attributed to:

- declining confidence in vaccines as misinformation spread through social media and other sources
- accessibility of health care services in remote and conflict areas remains to be a barrier

Survival

CHILD CARE AND SERVICES

Infants Exclusively Breastfed until the Six Months



Only 1.1M out of 2.1M or **51.93%** of the eligible population were said to be exclusively breastfed for up to six months.

This falls behind the 2030 Global Breastfeeding Collective target of 70%.

The low rates of exclusive breastfeeding is a critical factor in the increasing malnutrition and undernutrition of children in the country.

Regions With Lowest Numbers of Exclusively Breastfed for up to Six Months

Region	Number of Exclusively Breastfed for up to Six Months
Region III	104,988 (47.69%)
CALABARZON	116,736 (38.96%)
MIMAROPA	33,268 (45.70%)
Region VI	59,916 (40.91%)
Region VIII	43,866 (41.59%)
BARMM	44,406 (43.82%)

The low exclusive breastfeeding rate in the country may be attributed to insufficient support provided to encourage breastfeeding among mothers

Barriers include the lack of breastfeeding-friendly spaces and lactation breaks in the workplace



Survival

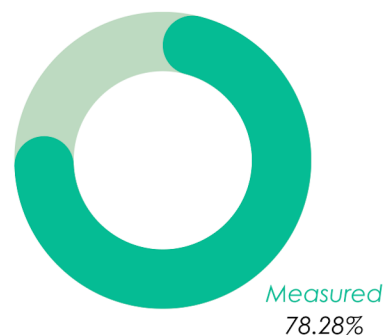
NUTRITION SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

Operation Timbang Plus (OPT+) Statistics

Measured Population

Out of the target population of 11.4M children, only 9M children were measured through OPT+

* Not reaching the minimum 80%. This may partly be because of COVID-19.



Regions with the Highest OPT+ Coverage

Region	OPT+ Coverage (%)
Region X	88.33%
Region XI	86.56%
Region III	86.48%

Regions with the Lowest OPT+ Coverage

Region	OPT+ Coverage (%)
Region VIII	64.80%
BARMM	69.77%
Region V	72.25%

Percentage of Stunted, Wasted, and Overweight Children Among Children Measured



6.99% of the total measured population were **stunted**.

Highest: Region VIII (14.59%)
Lowest: Region I (3.30%)



2.05% of the total measured population were **wasted**.

Highest: MIMAROPA (4.08%)
Lowest: Region XI (0.90%)



2.67% of the total measured population were **overweight**.

Highest: Region VIII (5.02%)
Lowest: Region X (1.09%)



2.78% of the total measured population were **underweight**.

Highest: MIMAROPA (6.04%)
Lowest: Region X (1.62%)

Regions with the highest prevalence of stunting, wasting, overweight-for-height, and underweight-for-height also have the highest poverty incidence among families.



Being overweight, underweight, stunted, wasted, and malnourished are more prevalent among **boys** than girls.

Development

EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT (ECCD)

Child Development Centers

9730 accredited Child Development Centers (CDCs)



CALABARZON and Region III have the highest number with 1176 and 1214 accredited CDCs, respectively.



Enrolled Students for S.Y. 2021-2022



The 4 year-old age group has the most enrollees.

Daycare Children Served

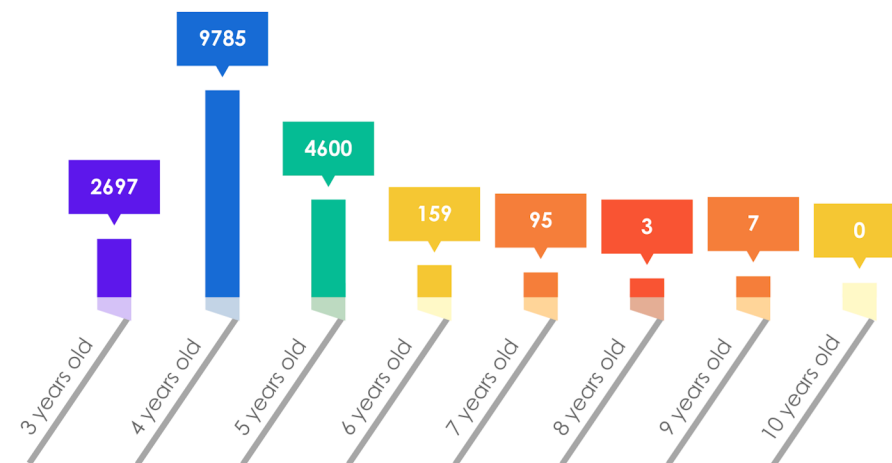


CALABARZON and Region XII has the highest and lowest number of daycare children served, respectively.



More males are enrolled in kindergarten than females, in contrast, the 5-17 age group, males are more likely to drop out or skip school compared to females.

Daycare Children with Disability Served



The 4 years old age group has the most enrollees with disabilities.

Male
4,349



Female
5,436

DID YOU KNOW?



At least 1 year of early childhood education (ECE) is a critical key to unlock full developmental potential.



Disability

is one of the main reasons for not attending school.

Issues in Special Education



Lack of Facilities



Lack of Special Education (SPED) Teachers

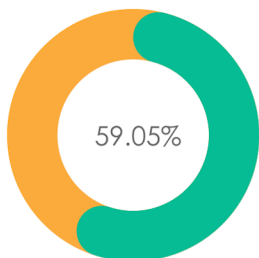
Development

SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDS FOR FY 2022

Special Education Fund (SEF) Budget (in proportion to the Real Property Tax Collection)

The SEF Budget is a portion of the 2022 Real Property Tax Collection, which is equivalent to:

Php 64.5B



It amounts to **Php 38B** making it **59.05%** of its source

Highest Budget Allocation Rate



Lowest Budget Allocation Rate



Development

SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDS FOR FY 2022

Special Education Fund (SEF) Statistics



Average Regional Budget Allocation
61.75%



Total Utilized Amount
₱28.46B
(74.68%)

Highest Budget Utilization Rate



Lowest Budget Utilization Rate



* High budget allocation and low budget utilization signals a disconnect between financial resources available and actual needs of the education sector

May be attributed to expenditures such as:



Operation and maintenance



Construction and Repair



Educational Research



Book Purchase



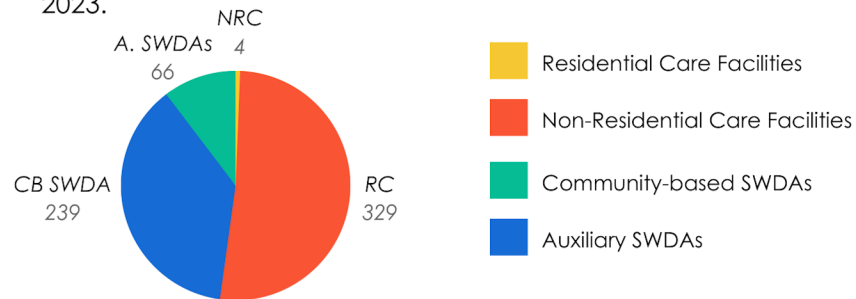
Sports Development

These expenditures may not reflect the actual needs and challenges of the education system and the students.

Protection

NGO AND SWDA PROVIDING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN

- There are **638** private Social Welfare Development Agencies (SWDAs) providing services for children and youth as of March 8, 2023.



- Regions with Most and Least SWDAs



- What do SWDAs help with?



Response to child maltreatment



Advocacy for the prevention and elimination of child maltreatment



Connect with the community

- Who do SWDAs help?



vulnerable and disadvantaged women



senior citizens



Children



Youth

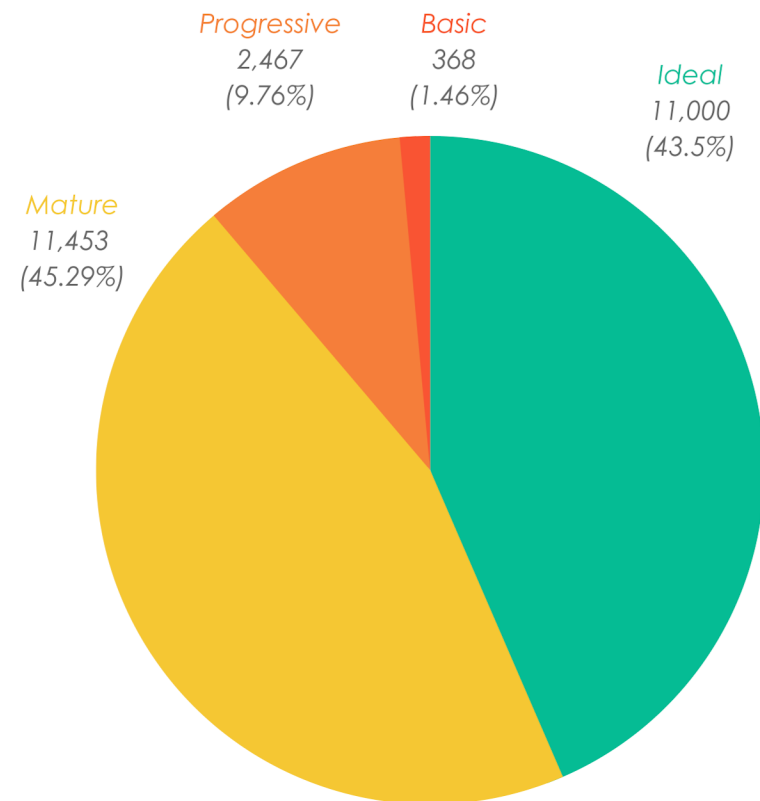


individuals and families in crisis

Protection

BARANGAY VAW DESKS

25,288 out of 42,046 barangays from Regions I, II, III, IV-A, VII, VIII, IX, X, and NCR were assessed for their VAW Desks



CALABARZON: Region With Most Number of Ideal Brgy. VAW Desks

With a number of **1,983** or **49.5%** ideal barangays, CALABARZON is the region that has the **most** VAW Desks with the ideal level of functionality

Protection

LSWDO

878 LGUs were assessed for their VAW Desks for the 2022 LSWDO functionality

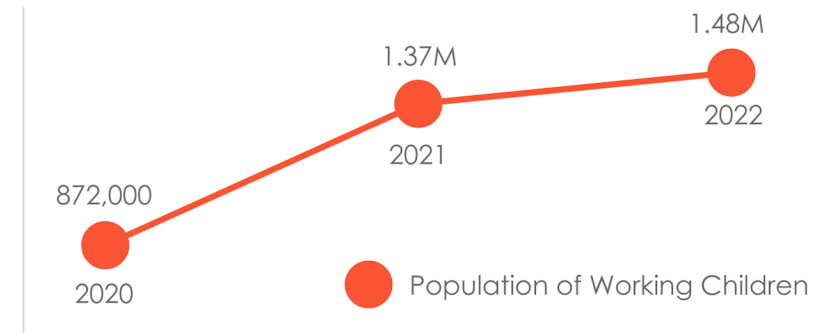
PSWDOs	
Low	1 (2%)
Level 1	9 (14%)
Level 2	45 (71%)
Level 3	8 (13%)

CSWDOs	
Low	0 (0%)
Level 1	19 (16%)
Level 2	72 (62%)
Level 3	25 (22%)

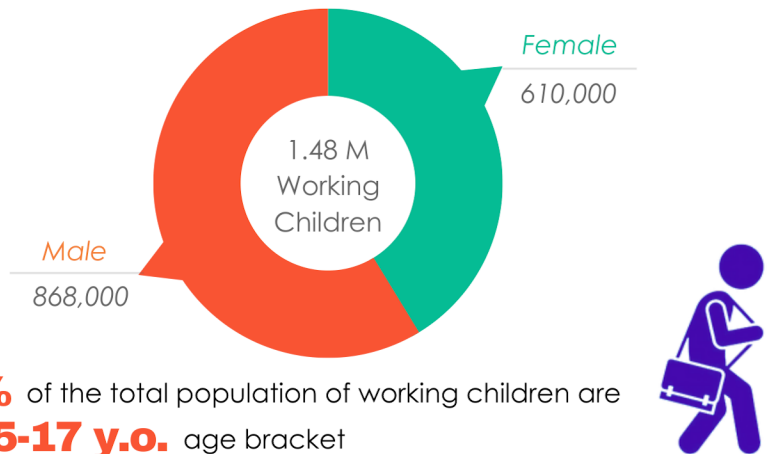
MSWDOs	
Low	4 (1%)
Level 1	202 (29%)
Level 2	467 (67%)
Level 3	26 (4%)

Protection

WORKING CHILDREN



Population of Working Children



59.7% of the total population of working children are of the **15-17 y.o.** age bracket

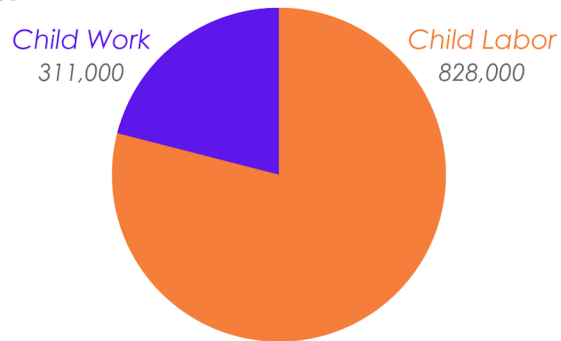
Regions With Highest Proportion of Working Children



Protection

WORKING CHILDREN

Child Labor



* As per definition of ILO-IPEC, child labor refers to the type of work that is seen to be harmful to the child's physical, mental, and emotional well-being and development.

Out of the 1.48M working children, **828,000** engage in child labor. This represents **79%** of the total population of working children

Boys engage in child labor more than girls with boys comprising **66%** of the child labor population and girls comprising **33%**. This means 2 out of 3 children engaging in child labor are boys.



Regions With Highest Proportion of Child Laborers



Participation

BCPC WITH CHILD REPRESENTATIVE

Barangay Councils for the Protection of Children



Promote and Protect
Children's Rights



Identify and Recognize
Beneficial Programs and Policies



Provide Opportunity
for Participation in Decision-making



Serve as Platform
for Children's Voices

Number and Proportion of BCPCs with Child Representatives: Regions Needing Improvement

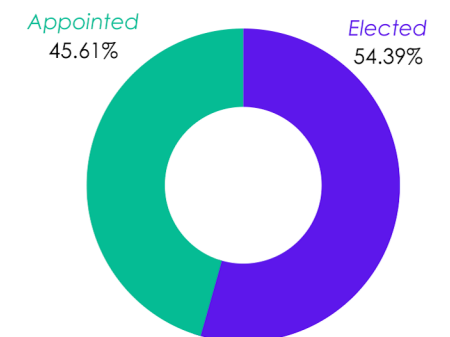
Region	Total Number of Barangays	Total
Region X	2,022	1,757 (86.89%)
Region IX	1,904	1,627 (85.45%)
BARMM	2,490	2,028 (81.45%)

* The unestablished BCPCs are due to limited staff and capacity in the barangay level.



36,961

Child Representatives



* A majority of the child representatives in the BCPCs are elected through a Children's General Assembly

Governance

BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR CHILDREN

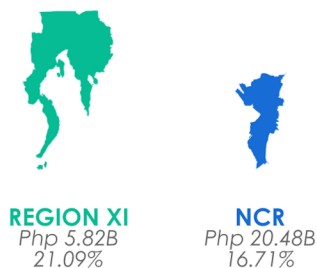
Children Plans, Programs, and Activities (PPAs) 2022

Total Budget Allocated

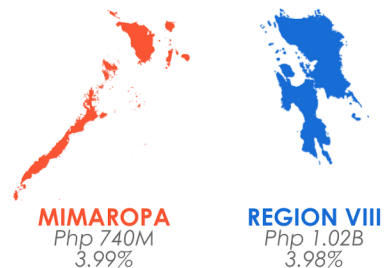
Php 66.2B

8.20% of the total budget

Highest Budget Allocation Rate



Lowest Budget Allocation Rate



1%

of the Internal Revenue Allotment/ National Tax Allotment (ITA/NTA) is for the implementation and enhancement of the PPAs of the Local Councils for the Protection of Children (LCPC).

The average budget allocation rate of **7.63%** for children for all the regions is considerably higher than the mandated one-percent allocation.

The increase in budget allocation for children may imply more child-focused plans, programs, and activities

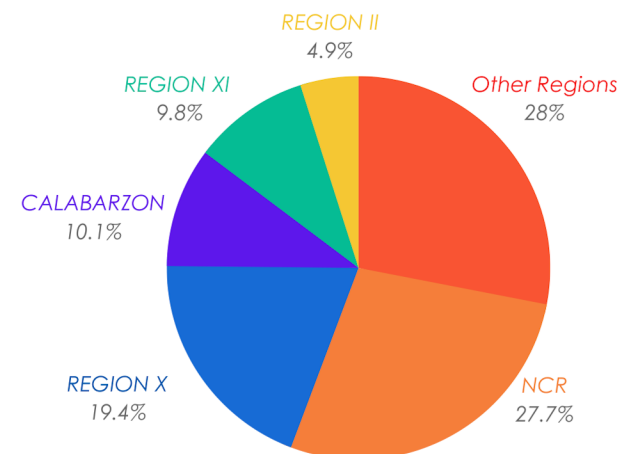


Governance

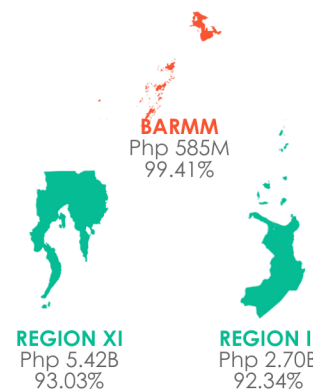
BUDGET UTILIZATION FOR CHILDREN

Out of the **Php 66.21B** total budget allocated for children PPAs for 2022, the total utilized budget is **Php 55.04 B (83.12%)**.

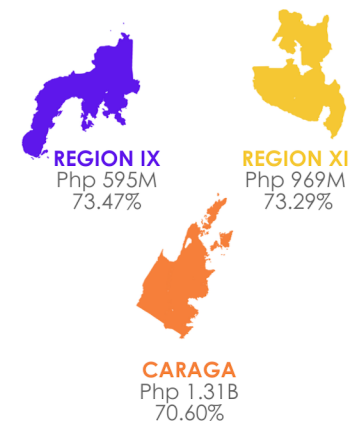
This corresponds to a regional average of **83.76%**.



Highest Budget Utilization Rate



Lowest Budget Utilization Rate

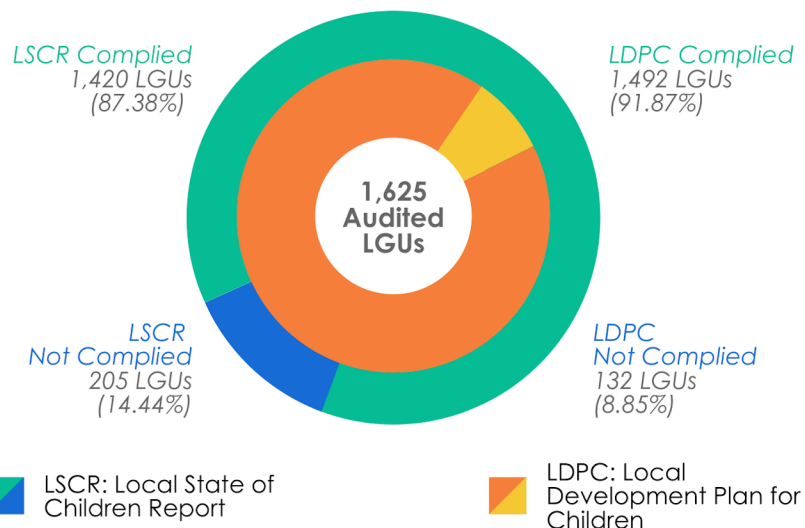


* A low utilization rate may imply a low absorptive capacity on the part of the local government units (LGUs).

Governance

LGU COMPLIANCE WITH 4 LEGACIES FOR CHILDREN

Audited LGUs



LSCR

Highest Compliance	Highest Non-Compliance
Region I 99.20%	Region VIII 24.31%
NCR 100%	Region IX 23.61%
Region XI 95.92%	BARMM 25.23%

LDPC

Highest Compliance	Highest Non-Compliance
Region I 100%	Region V 14%
Region II 98.92%	Region IX 24.56%
NCR 100%	CARAGA 17.74%

* Between these 2 (of 4) Gifts for Children, LDPC had a higher compliance rate, especially since this is locally mandated and required to be integrated in the local government's Comprehensive Development Plans (CDPs) and Annual Investment Programs (AIPs).

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



SURVIVAL

- Strengthen implementation and increase awareness on the importance of prenatal and postnatal care through the strict implementation and monitoring of Executive Order (EO) 141 at the national and local levels:
 - Lobby for single-age disaggregation and reporting of adolescent pregnancy cases in the National Safe Motherhood Program as a client targeting mechanism/strategy,
 - Require support from the Local Councils for the Protection of Children (LCPCs) in terms of resources (e.g. technical assistance, fund support, capacity building activities), and
 - Recommend CWC as co-lead with the National Youth Commission (NYC) and the Commission on Population and Development (POPCOM)
- Strengthen the presence and role of the IYCF Program and breastfeeding support groups, at the local level, to encourage continued exclusive breastfeeding for up to six (6) months through the strict implementation of RA 11148 (Kalusugan at Nutrisyon ng Mag-Nanay Act) which ensures health and nutrition of mother and child.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



3. Ensure compliance with RA 10028 or the “Expanded Exclusive Breastfeeding in the Workplace Law” to advocate for the creation of breastfeeding- friendly spaces in the workplace.
4. Advocate for the enactment of the Magna Carta for Barangay Health Workers (BHWs) to provide for additional compensation, benefits, incentives, and training for BHWs as they are at the forefront of public service at the local level.
5. Strengthen the implementation of the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) and increase awareness campaigns on the importance of vaccines to address issues on the increasing vaccine hesitancy in the country.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



1. In compliance with RA 10410 or the Early Years Act, Local Government Units (LGUs) provide support to strengthen Child Development Centers (CDCs) in accordance with the ECCD standards set by the DSWD and ECCD Council
2. Advocate for the passage of the Magna Carta on Child Development Workers (CDWs) to ensure security of tenure, standardized salaries, and enhanced the benefits of CDWs.
3. Ensure compliance with RA 11650 or “An Act Instituting a Policy of Inclusion and Services for Learners with Disabilities in Support in Inclusive Education, Establishing Inclusive
4. Learning Resource Centers of Learners with Disabilities in all School Districts, Municipalities and Cities” to provide Children with Disabilities (CWDs) equitable access to quality education.
5. Maintain accessibility of public and private centers and augmented when needed, pursuant to RA 6972 (Barangay-Level Total Development and Protection Act), RA 7160 (Local Government Code), and RA 10410 (EYA)
6. Ensure the accessibility and availability of alternative learning modalities and strengthen informal education to serve OSCY and children who are most vulnerable to fall into the worst forms of child labour.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



1. Continue to capacitate and strengthen the role of the barangay VAW Desks in responding to VAWC related cases at the local level.
2. Reiterate importance of hiring and capacitating licensed social workers as case managers in all Local Social Welfare and Development Offices (LSWDOs) in compliance with RA 9344 and RA 7160



1. Mainstream Guidelines on Child Participation to ensure compliance of Provincial, City, Municipal, and Barangay LCPCs.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



1. Continue to advocate for the development of a Local Development Plan for Children (LDCP) to ensure that child-friendly and child-centred programs, plans, and activities are integrated into the LGU's Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP).
2. Facilitate the development of the Comprehensive Local Juvenile Intervention Program (CLJIP) and Comprehensive Emergency Program for Children for all LGUs.
3. Mainstream and roll-out DILG MC 2021-039 or the Comprehensive Guidelines for the Establishment, Strengthening, and Monitoring of the LCPCs at all levels and prioritize:
4. Budget allocation for the LCPCs to prioritize programs, plans, and activities that are relevant to the current issues of children and youth (e.g. mental health awareness).
5. Develop and mainstream plan and budget menu for children for the full implementation of the Mandanas-Garcia Ruling

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DATASETS

Council for the Welfare of Children- Child- Friendly Local Governance Audit
Knowledge Management System

Department of Interior and Local Government- National Barangay Operations Office

Department of Health- Epidemiology Bureau, Public Health Services Team

Department of Social Welfare and Development- Policy Development and Planning
Bureau

Department of Social Welfare and Development- Standards Bureau

Department of Social Welfare and Development- Social Welfare Institutional
Development Bureau

National Nutrition Council- Nutrition Surveillance Division

Philippine Statistics Authority